

Claims

1. A ballast device for a discharge lamp (16), having
a DC voltage supply stage (2), semiconductor
5 switches (10, 11) which are switched at a
radiofrequency clock frequency for the purpose of
changing the current direction through the
discharge lamp (16), a starting transformer (15),
to which the DC voltage of the DC voltage supply
10 stage (2) can be supplied via a series capacitor
(14), and a ballast inductance (17) which is
connected to an electrode, not connected to the
starting transformer (15), of the discharge lamp
(16), **characterized in that**, between a connecting
15 point (27) between the series capacitor (14) and
the starting transformer (15), on the one hand,
and a connecting point (26) between the discharge
lamp (16) and the ballast inductance (17), on the
other hand, a capacitor (24) is connected in
20 series with a switch (23), and in that the
capacitor (24) forms, with the ballast inductance
(17), a series resonant circuit which is tuned to
a higher harmonic of the clock frequency.
- 25 2. The ballast device as claimed in claim 1,
characterized in that the series resonant circuit
is tuned to the third to sixth harmonic of the
clock frequency.
- 30 3. The ballast device as claimed in claim 1 or 2,
characterized in that a resistor (25) is connected
in parallel with the capacitor (24).